



**State of Connecticut**  
**LEGISLATIVE BLACK AND LATINO CAUCUS**  
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**Statement of Juan Candelaria**  
**Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus**  
**State Representative for the 95th Assembly District**  
**For the Public Health Committee**  
**March 5, 2014**  
**In support of**

**H.B. No. 5385, An Act Concerning Language Interpreters in Hospitals**

Chairman Gerratana, Chairman Johnson, and Honorable members of the Public Health Committee, As State Representative, I would like to express my strong support for H.B. No. 5385, **An Act Concerning Language Interpreters in Hospitals, which is currently in your committee for consideration.**

H.B. 5385 assures that patients understand the information provided to them from their caregiver, as well as patients having the ability to communicate and inform their caregivers of their problems and / or concerns. Being able to communicate within a hospital facility is critical because people's lives are at risk. Not being able to communicate or misunderstanding information can result in prescribing wrong medication, and inadequate medical assistance.

This legislation will ensure to the extent possible, the availability of interpreter service for patients whose primary language is not English.

Thank you chairmen and committee members for the opportunity to present testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juan Candelaria".

Juan Candelaria  
Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus  
State Representative  
95th District